

Grizzly

Vol. 1 No. 7 January 2007

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*Giving Back
to the Community*

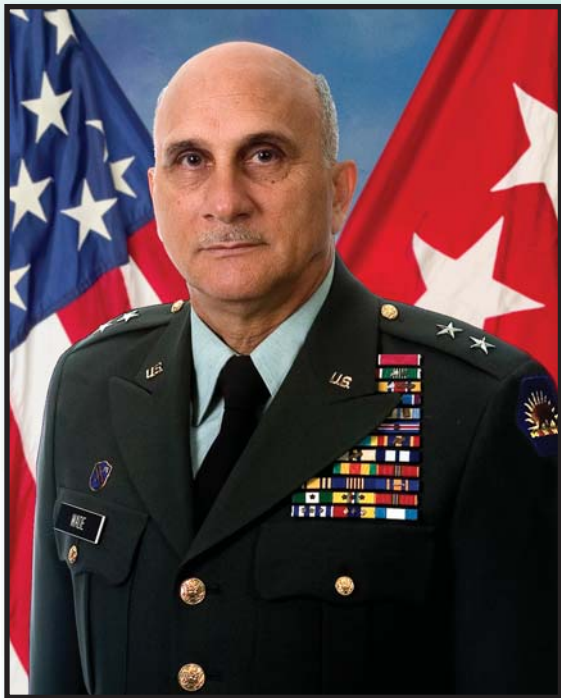


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Commander's Corner



Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II

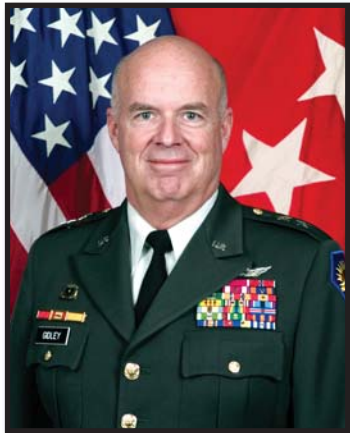


Command Chief Master Sgt.
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Army Division



Maj. Gen. Jeffrey L. Gidley



Command Sgt. Maj.
William Clark



Maj. Gen. Dennis G. Lucas



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Deborah K. Lott

Air Division

Joint Staff



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Command Sgt. Maj.
Sally J. Obrien



Brig. Gen. Emory J. Hagan



Command Sgt. Maj.
Robert W. Delaney

State Military Reserve

- Vision -

California's Professional Military Force Serving Our State and Nation Always Ready, Always There

Mission Statements

A community based
land force maintained
at the optimum level
of preparedness and
readiness for service to
the state and nation

California Army National Guard

A ready, reliable and
revelant force, now
and in the future.

California Air National Guard

A Ready Force, providing
the highest quality support
to the ARNG, the ANG and
the Joint Staff serving
California.

California State Military Reserve

Grizzly Newsletter

Vol 1. No. 7 January 2007
The Official Newsletter of the
California National Guard

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From the Editor,

The start of a New Year always prompts us to reevaluate our goals, achievements, and other aspects of our life. After months candy and deserts, turkey and ham, and the endless 'special meals,' many just want to be able to fit comfortably back into their uniform or favorite pair of jeans. That's why the Grizzly will be featuring monthly articles to help Soldiers, Airmen and their families get back into shape and stay fit. Along with our commitment to physical fitness the February issue will include tax tips and information on new tax laws that can save you money and keep you financially fit.

All of us at the Grizzly would like to thank you for your contributions over the last six months since we started the 'New Grizzly.' We would not have been able to successfully feature so many wonderful stories and pictures without your support. I challenge you to continue to celebrate your Soldiers' and Airmen's accomplishments by sending in articles throughout the year.

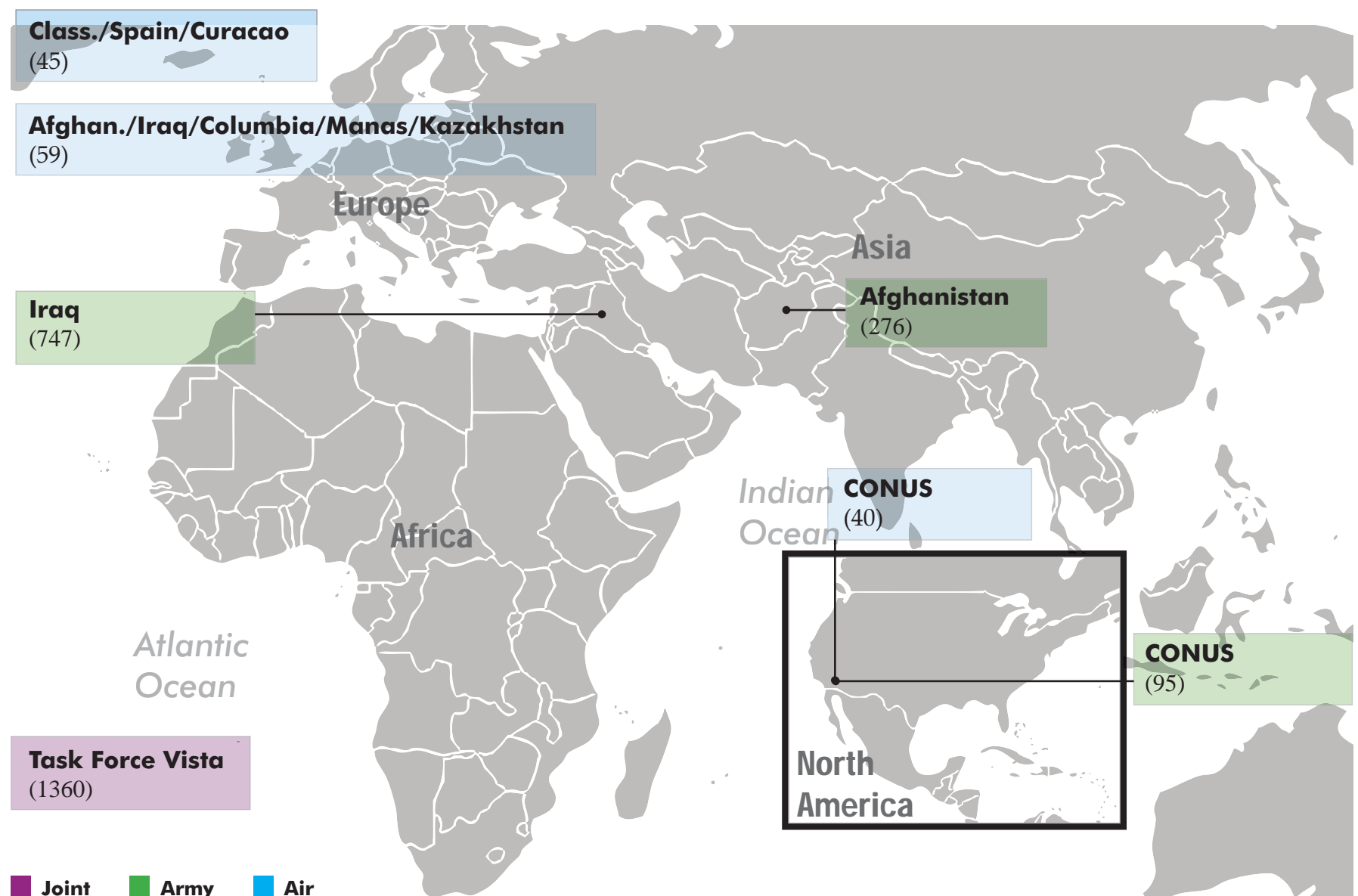
Happy New Year from the Grizzly staff!

Upcoming features:
Physical and financial fitness!



Where We Are

The California National Guard as of Dec. 2006



New Name, New Mission

By Maj. Brenda Hendricksen

Hundreds gathered in the Air National Guard Hanger November 28 to celebrate the commencement of California Air National Guard predator operations at March ARB. As a bonus witnesses were able to be present for the official Wing re-designation ceremony changing the 163d Air Refueling Wing to the 163d Reconnaissance Wing.

"This new mission poses new challenges. I have no doubt they (163d RW) will rise to this occasion," said Congressman Ken Calvert in a speech made during the hour long ceremony. "I'm sure if you asked any one of our troops on the ground in Iraq or Afghanistan, they would tell you the one thing they want most before going out on a mission is a predator to be their eyes around those dangerous corners ahead."

Guest speakers included Director of the Air National Guard Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, The State Adjutant General Maj. Gen. William Wade II and California Air National Guard Commander Maj. Gen. Dennis Lucas.

The ceremony was just one step in the Wing's transformation to become a fully fielded predator squadron and school house, estimated to be complete in 2010. In addition to everything that went

and is going on behind the scenes, the first milestone of the Wing occurred Aug. 15 when the first Air National Guard Orbit was stood up at Nellis AFB. Since Aug. 15 the Air National Guard has flown 75 missions and 1450 combat hours.

"In ten months the unit went from concept to capability," said Lt. Gen. McKinley. "Many of the missions are sun-setting. We have to get in a sunrise mission," added the general referring to missions that are coming to an end and the beginning of upcoming missions. He also pointed out that California was one of the first states to raise their hands to take on the new mission. The Wing currently has 14 crews trained and is expected to have 60 when fully fielded. "What the guard brings today is that it gives the active duty a chance to reduce their PER-STEMPO (Personnel Tempo) and also allows Air National Guard to maximize citizen airman experience and expertise to balance the combatant commander's demands. California has certainly done that," said Lt. Gen. McKinley. "Because of this technology there is a lot of soldiers that walk around here on earth that may not be otherwise," said Maj. Gen. Wade referring to the new California National Guard mission. Since 1995 predators have flown more than 7,000

missions and over 140,000 hours, of which more than half have been during combat-area deployments to the Balkans, Southwest Asia, and the Middle East where Predator operates in support of US and NATO forces.

"We were dealt a bunch of lemons in 2005 BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) but this unit, under General Wade's guidance and leadership, turned them into lemonade. This is a result of that," said Maj. Gen. Lucas pointing to

the static predators that were on display.

The ceremony concluded with Col. Aimar's final comments followed by the reading of the re-designation order and the cutting of a red ribbon staged in front of the Wing's static predator aircraft. Addressing 163d RW members Col Aimar said, "You all have been incredible to work with. We couldn't have gotten the new mission started without the help of all of you."



Left to Right, Commander of the California Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Dennis G. Lucas, Director of the Air National Guard Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, Congressman of the 44th Congressional District of Southern California Ken Calvert, The Adjutant General of the California National Guard Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II and 163d Reconnaissance Wing Commander Col. Al Aimar gather for the Predator Operations Center Ribbon Cutting Nov. 28 in hanger 2305.

PHOTOS: SENIOR AIRMAN DIANE DUCATI



Wing members and guests honor the flag during a ceremony held November 28, 2006 re-designating the 163d from an Air Refueling Wing to a Reconnaissance Wing.

Real World

Exercise

While Law Enforcement special operations serve multiple search warrants to suspected terrorists in Orion Park, just outside of Moffett Field, a suspect is seen making a call on his cell phone. Seconds later a car bomb explodes releasing toxic fumes into the air. The Special Weapon and Tactics (SWAT) teams and other law enforcement personnel attempt to react to the hazardous radioactive material spewing from the trunk, while at the same time taking into custody and detaining suspected terrorists. Two men shout from their second floor windows, berating officers with questions and criticism, and asking for names and badge numbers: "That's my car? Why aren't you doing anything? I always knew that guy was trouble. Why don't you help that person?"

There are, in fact, a series of car detonations followed by a blast at a nearby industrial facility. One of the car explosions has turned a tanker truck on its side that is now leaking an unknown fuming liquid. The explosion at a chemical facility results in a chemical piping breach releasing hazardous chemicals into the environment. Hundreds

of people are injured requiring local responders from throughout Santa Clara County, including fire fighters, law enforcement, medical, urban search and rescue, and California National Guard personnel to respond quickly.

The scene is utter chaos, but local responders and military personnel work quickly to establish Incident Command, set up perimeters and decontamination and treatment areas. It has been determined that this is a coordinated attack and that more violence is likely.

No, we are not witnessing the outcome of a highly organized terrorist plot; this is the NOVEX 2006 exercise that took place November 7 and 8 outside of Moffett Field. The exercise is hosted by NASA Ames Research Center and facilitated by the California Specialized Training Institute of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the California National Guard 95th Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Team (WMD - CST). It is a full-scale, "real world" exercise that allows the California National Guard, along with local firefighters, law enforcement and oth-

er first responders, to rehearse a coordinated response to chemical and radiological threats.

It is crucial for these agencies to train together in a realistic scenario in order to ensure efficient coordination during an actual emergency. "The ability of first responders from all levels of government, volunteer organizations and the private sector to work together is critical in emergencies, particularly those involving chemical, radiological materials and other weapons of mass destruction," said Henry Renteria, Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES).

The California National Guard 95th CST was designed to augment local and regional agencies in the event of a disaster involving Weapons of Mass Destruction. The CST is not a first responder and will never replace local agencies. When called upon, the team integrates with the Incident Command System to assess a suspected chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high yield explosive event and advise civilian responders regarding appropriate response actions. They also help expedite arrival of requested state and federal assets to help save lives, prevent human suffering and mitigate property damage.



Repeat, Reflect, Respond

By Maj. Steve Fetrow

I just typed the word, “communication”, into an internet search engine. On page one of my search I noticed the Federal Communications Commission, American Communication Association, a communication journal, references to religious communications, academic communication, telecommunication, etc. According to my computer, the search found 342,000,000 websites dealing with communication! Every leader knows that communication is a key to effective leadership. Every counselor knows that communication is a key to developing successful relationships. Communication is a key for politicians, sales representatives, teachers, entertainers, customers, customer service representatives, dispatchers, attorneys, commanders, news agencies, etc. Communication is an essential function of society.

The truth is that you communicate even when you are not speaking. Experts claim that more than 50% of communication happens without uttering a word. We all know what it means when someone rolls their eyes, crosses their arms, stares into space, sighs, smiles, leans forward, etc. In other words, our “body language” communicates even when we are verbally silent. I used to have a commander that responded to bad news by simply staring and saying not one word. Yikes, that was uncomfortable. He didn’t have to say a word, I knew what he was communicating and would put a great deal of effort into finding a way to give him good news at my next visit.

We are all involved in communication. My precious little daughter born on 5 Dec 2006 communicates. When she is hungry, she makes sucking motions with her mouth hoping that she will find some food. If that doesn’t work, she cries. When she is tired, she closes her eyes and tries to get comfortable hoping she can get to sleep. If that doesn’t work, she cries. If she has a dirty diaper, she kicks and squirms hoping someone will help change her. If that doesn’t work, she cries. OK, so crying is a big part of infant communication as any parent can recall. The point is not that infants cry a lot but that they communicate. The cries are eventually replaced with, “goo goo ga ga”. Soon those sounds are replaced with actual words, “bottle” or “give me”, for example. Eventually, the tiny little baby grows up and learns to put complete sentences together.

Communication is important. Without communication, an infant

would not be able to find a way to let a parent know that he or she is hungry, tired, or needs changed. In other words, our needs are often either met or unmet due to the success or failure of communication. Without communication, organizations would be unable to share common objectives or missions. Can you imagine a military operation without operation orders? Without communication, relationships fail to connect and fall apart. Face it, communication is one of the most important aspects of daily life.

Remember, communication is NOT just talking or sharing your own thoughts, ideas, and opinions. Communication requires both sharing and listening. It requires careful reflection and constant checks. Miscommunication is a common downfall in failures at both the organizational and relational level. Miscommunication occurs when the intended message is not understood and therefore does not receive an appropriate response. This most often occurs because the receiver of the message is simply NOT listening. The person may “hear” the words being spoken or read them on a computer screen, but they have not really “listened” to what was being communicated. Instead of taking the time to understand the message, they jump into a response mode and begin formulating responses or arguments. Too often, these responses and arguments do not even address the issues being raised. Why? Because someone did not take the time to really listen.

It is a New Year with new opportunities. You could do many things in 2007 to improve yourself and your surroundings. Many will begin new diets and exercise plans. Some will start a new educational or training program. Allow me to suggest that there may not be anything more beneficial for you to consider in 2007 than learning to improve your listening skills! Even good listeners can make improvements when it comes to really listening. Try this simple formula:

Repeat – take time to repeat what you heard, you can do this both in your own mind and with the person sharing a message. Clarify your perceptions and make sure you heard what you thought you heard!

Reflect – consider the ideas, emotions, issues being shared with an open mind. How many great ideas are lost because we approach issues with dogmatic and narrow

mind thinking? Think about what is being said.

Respond – good listening requires an appropriate response. A response could be support, confrontation, or even referral. Take the time to initiate and complete an appropriate and meaningful response.

The 3 R’s! It works. It even works with my baby girl. I am learning more and more to watch for body language, expressions, and even the tone of a cry to determine what she is specifically communicating. It works with my spouse. When I repeat what I hear it shows that I am attentive to her words. When I reflect upon those words, it demonstrates that I care about what she is saying. And when I respond to her words in an appropriate manner, it demonstrates that she is truly important to me. Repeat...



Reflect... Respond... The 3 R’s. And remember the one “bad” R, don’t rush communication! Communication takes attention, focus, commitment, effort, AND time! You can’t hurry effective communication.

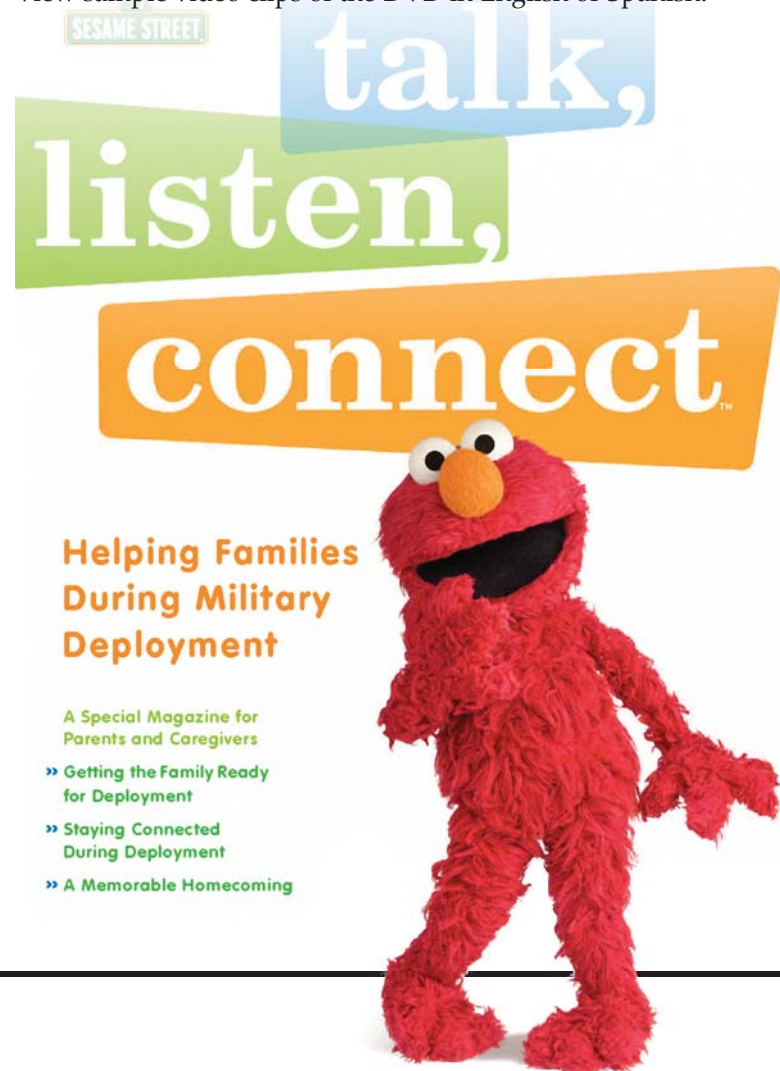
Preparing for Deployment:

Talk, Listen, Connect: Helping Families During Military Deployment

Being a part of a military family can be a challenge. This bilingual DVD kit is designed to help military families with children ages 3-5 cope with feelings, challenges, and concerns experienced during various phases of deployment: pre-deployment, deployment, and homecoming. The kit includes a DVD featuring the beloved Muppets from Sesame Street, and a parent/caregiver magazine and poster. Created through a partnership with Sesame Workshop and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., with additional support from the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYSOMH) and the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC).

The Sesame Street video and parent/caregiver materials are also available for download at <http://www.sesameworkshop.org/tlc>

View sample video clips of the DVD in English or Spanish.



2-185th

Returns Home from Iraq

By Elizabeth Fitzsimons
Courtesy of the Union-Tribune

Bobbi Cook couldn't wait a minute longer.

Her husband had been away with his California National Guard unit for 15 months. And now, just off the bus and home at last, the men were ordered to line up for the awarding of a Purple Heart and a few words from their commanding general.

When she saw him, she broke from the crowd of families, her three young children following her like ducklings.

First Sgt. Daniel Cook didn't even see Bobbi coming until she grabbed him, and then he pulled her close, buried his face in her hair and reached for the kids.

"I saw him and I wanted to kiss him," Bobbi Cook said later, smiling and teary-eyed.

Daniel Cook was one of about 130 National Guardsmen belonging to B Company, 2-185th Armor Battalion to return home yesterday from Iraq.

The 2-185th was responsible for the security and transportation of thousands of detainees. Soldiers also provided convoy security and operational control of a forward operating base. During its

Iraq tour, the company suffered no deaths and very few injuries.

Yesterday, families gathered at the National Guard Armory on Mesa College Drive in Kearny Mesa to wait for the soldiers, who flew to San Diego from Washington state, where they had been debriefed at Fort Lewis for several days.

Inside the armory, tables were decorated with bouquets and glittery confetti, and lunch for the soldiers was kept warm nearby. A lighted Christmas tree stood behind the lectern on the stage, and a red-white-and-blue quilt with squares dedicated to each family hung from the second-floor railing over the lunch tables.

Bobbi Cook briskly walked back and forth, making sure everything was just right, occasionally turning to see that her children were close behind. As the battalion's family readiness coordinator, she's the one families turn to when they need help. She's the one who gets the calls in the middle of the night from wives worried sick about their husbands.

"How do I keep it together? I don't know. Sometimes I don't. These people helped me keep it together," Bobbi Cook said, waving her hand to the crowd of families.

"See this lady? Her name is Mona Zendejas. She's my best friend."

The two women met last year when the unit deployed. They've leaned on each other, tackled projects together. Bobbi Cook lives in El Cajon, Zendejas in Calipatria, about 150 miles east of San Diego.

Four months ago, Zendejas' long-time boyfriend, Sgt. Ronald Zielenski, came home for a visit.

"Let's go to the jewelry store," he said to her.

Why? she asked.

"To pick out your engagement ring."

She looked at the fiery diamond solitaire as she told the story. Later, she cried when she found out Zielenski, who injured his back in Iraq, and others who were sick or hurt were taking a later flight, and were expected to arrive last night.

Like Zendejas, many traveled from out of town for the homecoming. Melissa Crull and her 2-year-old daughter, Constance, came from the Mojave Desert town of Apple Valley with Crull's grandparents to meet her husband, Spc. Daniel Crull.

The couple's son, who was in Apple Valley yesterday with family, was born three days before Daniel Crull was deployed. The last time he saw his baby boy was in April, when he returned home for a short visit.

Seeing his daughter yesterday, Daniel Crull said, "was a shock."

Constance must have felt the same.

"She was like 'Who are you?'" Melissa Crull said of her daughter.

After lunch, it was back on the road to Apple Valley. The whole family was waiting, and they all would be together for Christmas.



California National Guard Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment take a last look at Iraq while flying out of the country on a Navy MH-53E "Black Stallion" helicopter. The Soldiers are on their way home after 12 months in Iraq.



A wounded California National Guard Soldier from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment uses crutches as he exits a Navy MH-53E "Black Stallion" helicopter with other Soldiers from his unit at an airfield in Kuwait after 12 months in Iraq.

PHOTOS: SGT. SARAH SCULLY

Residents donate time, coffee, and letters to perk up troops

By Rachel Merton
Courtesy of the Elk Grove Citizen

On Monday night the walkway to the entrance of Ellen Feickert Elementary School was lined with hundreds of boxes filled with Starbucks coffee.

Parents, students, teachers, administrators and members of local military units worked into the night to package and ship the coffee, along with letters from students, to troops throughout the Middle East.

"This is something that a lot of the Starbucks have done throughout the country for the last probably two or three years," said Wendall Stallworth, a Starbucks District Manager. Customers purchased the coffee and were able to write notes to the troops on the package.

"We send the packages directly to the troops. A lot of times people just say Iraq, but what about the troops in Afghanistan? They're spread out," Stallworth said. "We just label it 'Troops' and they send it to the different areas through the military."

Combining the donated coffee with letters from students was the idea of two mothers of Feickert students: Christina Hall and Sue Teafatiller.

"Sue—who is a manager of the Elk Grove Boulevard, the Auto Mall Starbucks—her son is in my son's class," Hall said. "She knew that my husband is a member of the National Guard so she asked me if I knew soldiers over there, so I asked my husband if he knew a way that we could get [the coffee] over there."

"Then, since our kids go to school here, we decided it would probably be even more exciting for the soldiers not just to open up a pack of coffee, but to get letters from kids in the school," Hall added. Hall estimated that more than 1,000 pounds of coffee had been donated.

Mark Leal, principal at Feickert said the packages kept coming all day.

"One store delivered on Friday and it's been coming in all day, so we ran it all along the wall [of the office]," Leal said. Stallworth said most of the coffee being sent was purchased from people who live in the Elk Grove area.

Students of both Ellen Feickert Elementary and Florence Markofer Elementary wrote letters. "We share a vice principal here with Markofer," Leal said. "We

sent out an e-mail explaining the project and all teachers participated."

"It was completely voluntary. Only those who wanted to [participate] did," Hall said.

"We said who we are, things about our family, parents, how it is down here in Elk Grove," said Grant Hall, a fourth grader at Feickert, about what he included in his letter.

Although coffee is not the most obvious gift to send to troops, Spec. Courtney Wilson - who was there to help with the packaging - said it would be much appreciated. "We have troops over there and in e-mails they say the coffee over

there is pretty weak," Wilson noted. "So hopefully Starbucks is a little bit stronger than what they have."

"They have 24-hour rotations, so someone's on duty all the time. So for people whose duty hours are nine to nine the coffee definitely would come in handy for them," Wilson added.

"I know people overseas and I talk to them. They love letters, they don't care, it could be a one sentence letter, they love getting mail," Wilson said. She added, "This is going to be extra special to them especially since it's so close to Christmas."



PHOTO BY REBECCA MASTON, ELK GROVE CITIZEN. USE OF PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE ELK GROVE CITIZEN AND HERBINGER PUBLICATIONS, INC.

National Guard Soldiers Lend a Hand to Santa

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake

National Guard soldiers from Task Force Vista, the California National Guard mission to Operation Jump Start, took a short break from their duties assisting the Border Patrol in securing the nation's borders to lend an "assist to Santa," delivering toys to the Hoopa Indian Reservation.

The toys, collected by Walking Shield, Inc., an organization dedicated to helping to improve the quality of life within Indian Communities since 1986, collected the toys from corporate sponsors such as toy manufacturer Hasbro, from charitable groups and individual donations. Gifts ranged from toys for all ages, board games, books, stuffed animals and hand-knitted items such as caps, gloves and blankets.

Distribution is a challenge nearly

as great as obtaining the donations, however, and this is where the California National Guard stepped in. Under the auspices of the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program, the California National Guard has transported donated gifts to Indian reservations around California in what has become known as "the Toy Run."

Led by Staff Sgt. Navin Bookram, Task Force Vista Transportation, a six-year veteran of the "Toy Run," and assisted by Sgt. Kenneth Binch, Task Force Vista Public Affairs and Spec. Keith Barron, Team Sentinel, this year's run was to the Hoopa Indian Reservation, 60 miles north-east of Eureka, California.

Although situated in California's beautiful high mountain country along the Trinity River, the lack of local industry and the distance and

difficulty in reaching a large population center such as Eureka have left the Hoopa economically isolated, resulting in 80% unemployment among the Hoopa. The more than 1,450 gift items brought by the "Toy Run" will provide a toy or gift to children who otherwise might not have gotten one at all.

The Hoopa will be visited again by the military in the spring or summer of 2007, as reserve units from all branches of the service do their Annual Training rotations under the IRT program. Current plans for 2007 are to have a medical unit assist the Hoopa; other IRT programs provide infrastructure repair support.



Staff Sgt. Navin Bookram (left) presents RobRoy Latham, Jr., Human Resources Director for the Hoopa Indian K'ima:w Medical Center (right), with the last box of toys from the Walking Shield organization as Michael Taylor looks on.

Holiday Cheer Received by California National Guard Troops at Border

By Carolyn Blashek

On Tuesday, December 12, Operation Gratitude volunteers hand delivered care packages to the Troops working on the California - Mexico Border Mission.

Hand in hand, California National Guard Troops of Joint Task Force Vista OPERATION JUMP START and Operation Gratitude volunteers distributed packages to JTF VISTA Troops. Each Troop received a package at the National City Armory in San Diego during the Task Force's Holiday Party. In addition, volunteers also delivered packages to a San Diego Border Patrol Station in order to personally hand ten addressed packages to Troops serving at that particular station.

Included in each package for the CNG Troops was a personal note from California's First Lady, Maria Shriver, as part of her Military

Family Initiative to help support California families through community volunteer efforts.

Operation Gratitude's (www.operationgratitude.com) mission is to put a smile on a service member's face, lift morale, and express the appreciation of the American people for the sacrifices of the men and women defending our freedom.

Operation Gratitude packages are filled with Flash Drives, Sports Calling Cards, DVDs and CDs, Candy, Gum, Cough Drops, Cookies, Hand Warmers, Skin Care Products, Coffee and Flavorings, Greeting Cards, Batteries, Energy Drinks, T-Shirts, Socks and assorted Snacks.

All products for the packages have been donated by individuals, organizations, schools, community groups, businesses and more than

three dozen Corporate Sponsors (www.opgratitude.com/sponsors.php) (companies that have donated 10,000 items or more). Overall expenses of about \$10-15/package are covered by tax deductible

financial donations from citizens across the country.

Operation Gratitude sent its 200,000th care package on December 16, 2006.



Soldiers of Joint Task Force VISTA, the SW Border Mission, unload boxes assembled by Operation Gratitude.

PHOTO: MICHAEL MORGAN

The California FAN gets an A+ for Assistance!

By Kimberly Crawford Gorski

Every day is an opportunity to assist someone. This is the motto of Gail Grinius, the Sacramento Family Assistance Network Coordinator. On September 14, 2006 those words were well received by a California Army National Guard Specialist and his family.

Preparing to deploy to Iraq, Gerald was in Mississippi for pre-deployment training when he was notified that his son who was 2 months old at the time had been diagnosed with eye cancer.

Shortly after returning home on emergency leave the family began

having financial difficulties. Due to the reoccurring hospital trips for the baby's treatment from their home in Lodi to San Francisco, their expenses seemed to multiply. The pressure of life had a vice-like grip and Gerald and his wife Sherry were overwhelmed. Desperate for assistance; they reached out for help.

"I received this email from my boss that had been passed through six people before it came to me," Grinius said. "I contacted Gerald and offered my assistance."

Just two days after Gerald was

contacted by Grinius and learned about the Family Assistance Network, he received the first wave of relief; \$215.00 worth of Safeway gift cards and \$75.00 worth of Target gift cards. Though these contributions would serve their immediate needs, the pressure was still on and Grinius knew they needed to plan for the days ahead.

In less than a week she orchestrated the successful approval of grants from both the California National Guard Family Assistance Fund and the Chaplain's Fund. Armed with a \$500.00 gift card from Costco, Grinius visited the family's home and discussed the details of how to utilize the money.

"I got their account numbers and addresses to help them with their utility payments," said Grinius. "I also gave Gerald phone cards to help defray their phone costs."

Grinius also said that \$500.00 was paid toward their electric bill and \$100.00 toward their phone bill in addition to the \$500.00 Costco card to buy groceries and baby supplies.

Challenges for the family kept coming at a steady pace as they were dealing with mounting bills and their son's ocular cancer.

While the family was receiving assistance from the various FAM resources, Gerald was hoping for a compassionate reassignment from his upcoming deployment to Iraq so that he may stay and assist his family.

"I have to do what I have to do, but I would rather be here to help my family," said Gerald.

Grinius dug in her heels, continuing to help Gerald fight for his family here on his home front. Luckily with Gail's assistance he was able to serve out his deployment with his rear detachment here at home.

"Gerald and Sherry were very thankful and receptive to our assistance," stated Grinius. "They are a strong family and are handling things well."

The challenges for this family are far from over, but thanks to the Family Assistance Network and Gail Grinius, they know they are not left to fight them alone.

To find out more about the Family Assistance Network or to locate the FAN Coordinator in your area, please visit our website at: www.calguard.ca.gov/readyyfamilies or call 1-800-449-9662.



Mrs. Grinius, far right, participates in the Elk Grove parade.

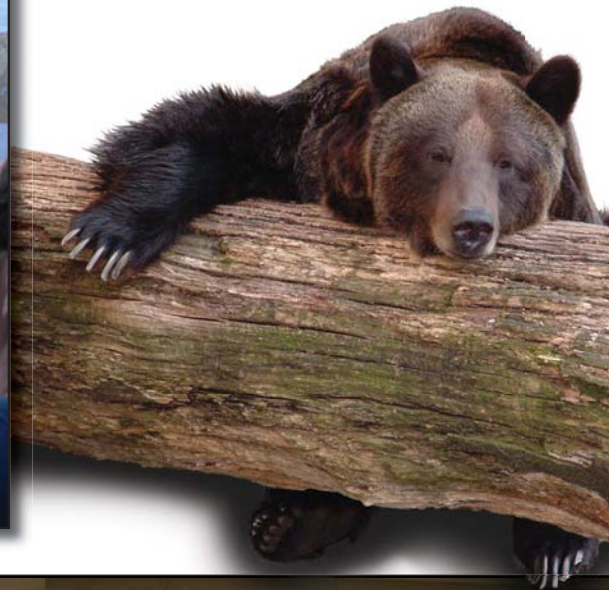
at a Gl



1st Lt. Heidi Olsen gives the entry brief before the team goes into the hot zone/contaminated area/exclusion zone.

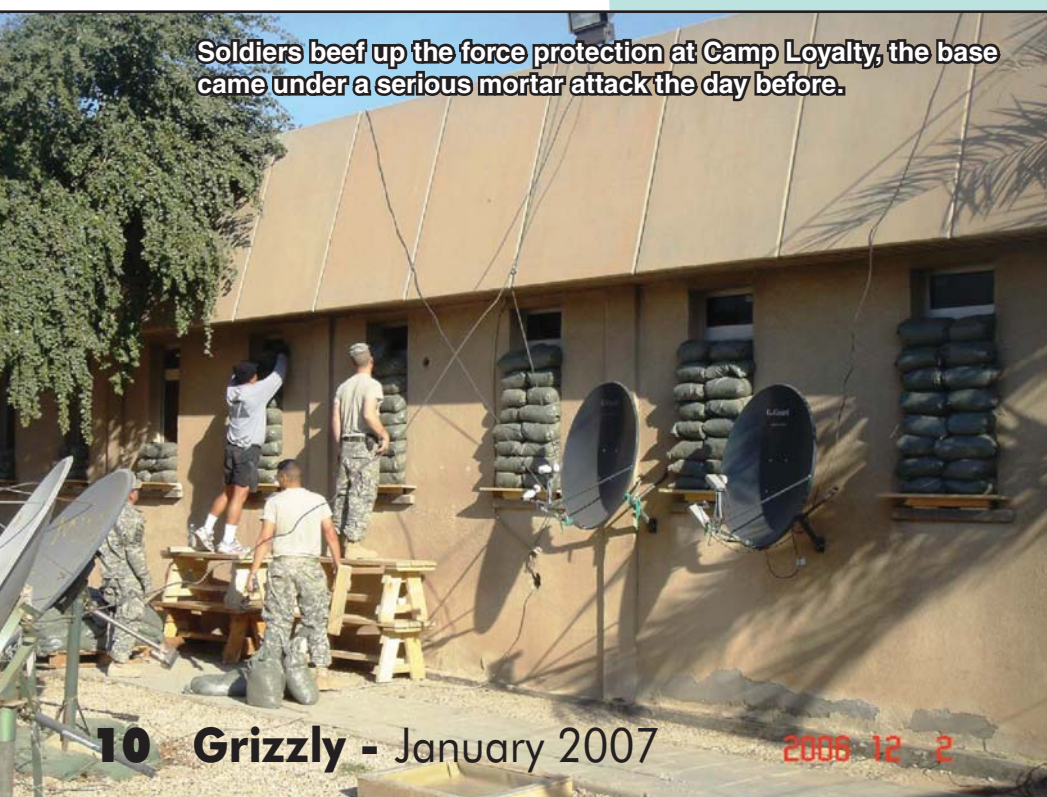


Sgt. 1st Class Figlietti attempts to master his skills as Project Engineer "Army Aviator." Lesson #1, small smooth control inputs.



Sgt. First Class Rodney Plamondon (right) of B Company 1-184 Infantry stands with his daughter Specialist Rebecca Plamondon at his unit's Christmas dining out. Sgt. First Class Plamondon served as a platoon sergeant during the unit's deployment to Iraq in 2005, his third wartime deployment. Spec. Rebecca Plamondon enlisted in the 3-140th Aviation in Stockton during her father's deployment to Iraq.

Sergeant Anthony Trout of A Troop 1st Squadron 18th Cavalry, issues ammunition at the zero range at Camp Roberts, Calif., Nov. 17, 2006. The 18th Cavalry is the reconnaissance battalion for the 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.



Soldiers beef up the force protection at Camp Loyalty, the base came under a serious mortar attack the day before.



Community members get together to ship toys and food to needy families, military families, and military members serving in combat.

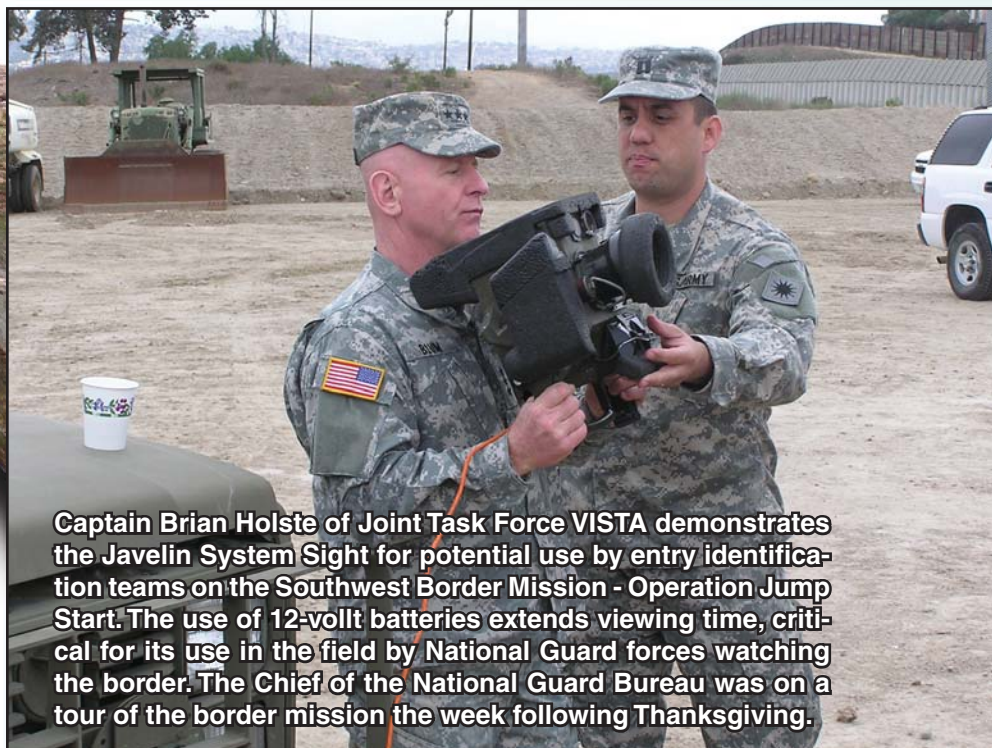
ance



DJ, son of Sgt. Daniel Stuckey of C Troop 1-18th Cavalry, eagerly tells Santa his Christmas wishes. Santa Claus visited children at the San Diego armory during the 40th IBCT family center dedication.



Soldiers from Task Force Vista, Southwest Border, unload boxes prepared by Operation Gratitude. More than 1200 packages containing from; DVDs, CD's flash drives to cough drops were hand delivered to soldiers working on the California-Mexican border.



Captain Brian Holste of Joint Task Force VISTA demonstrates the Javelin System Sight for potential use by entry identification teams on the Southwest Border Mission - Operation Jump Start. The use of 12-volt batteries extends viewing time, critical for its use in the field by National Guard forces watching the border. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau was on a tour of the border mission the week following Thanksgiving.



Lee Wakefield, Vice President of Mobile Shelter Systems, briefs Brig. Gen. John Harrel, 40th Infantry Division Assistant Commander for Maneuver, in the Family Resource Center at the San Diego armory. Mobile Shelter Systems is a sponsor of the Family Resource Center.

PICTURES SUBMITTED BY:
STAFF SGT. JOSEPH PROUSE
MASTER SGT. MICHAEL DRAKE
CAPT. MICHAEL MORGAN
2ND LT. SCOTT GHIRINGHELLI
CAPT. DANIEL MARKERT
LT. COL. ROBERT SPANO



Deployed Warrant Officers Michael Aguirre and Mario Garcia give presents to a young Iraqi boy at the Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad, Iraq. In Christmas 2005 several warrant officers and NCO's representing the Gold Rush Chapter donated Compact Disc players and hundreds of CD's to military personnel injured during Operation Iraqi Freedom. They also donated clothing and toys to Iraqi children being treated at the Balad hospital.



Sgt. Kelly Rogers, Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, and Lt. Col. Ron Vestman simultaneously cut the cake at the National Guard's 370th Birthday. These members represent the unification of our diversity in the guard between male and female army and Air as well as officer and enlisted.

San Diego Family Center

Photo and story by Maj. Daniel Markert

"Honored Sir. I hope your Honor will pardon me for not writing to your Honor before this, it is owing to me being full of business and my family so distressed by the burning of my house, barn and all my effects by the Enemy. And the men to be under my Command coming on so slow, that I thought best to wait until I had some men at command according to your Honors appointment before I inform about my proceedings," said Maj. John Mauritsius Goetschius, of the New Jersey militia July 29, 1780.

Many things have changed since our Revolutionary War militia beginnings, but one constant in a soldier's life is that uncertainty of stability at home greatly affects effectiveness in the field.

To improve the access and quality of family support recourses for the 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, a new Family Resource Center was opened at the Kearny Mesa armory in San Diego on December 3rd, 2006.

"When a family's soldier is deployed far from home, sometimes a website or a phone call is not enough", said Kim Munoz, volunteer coordinator for the project. "This center will provide a physical space complete with a knowledgeable Family Assistant Network coordinator, resource materials, internet café and a welcome home styled environment."

The center also includes a children's play area and a conference space for family readiness meetings. "By creating a 'family-friendly' place, it is more likely that families will be more willing to come

to the armory for pre-deployment briefings, family readiness/support meetings and other events," said Munoz. "Our goal is to connect family members with the right resources at the right time."

This first class facility came as the result of the volunteer efforts of Jim Burns, the Facility Manager, Col. John Munoz-Atkinson and other soldiers and family members from the 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Donations from Corporate Sponsors, Community Groups and individuals also helped develop the facility.

The National Guard Family Resource Center Act passed by the state legislature and signed by the governor in September provided \$99,000 to help pay for centers at seven other armories in addition to the one just opened in San Diego and the center in Santa Ana: Inglewood, San Bernardino, Azusa, Burbank, Fresno, Modesto, and Walnut Creek. The State Military Department is expected to actively encourage veterans and community organizations to help provide the balance of funds to make these other seven family centers a reality.

The hard work of unit and community volunteers has made a successful public-private partnership to better serve the National Guard family.

"We painted the walls after duty hours and the carpet was donated by a local business and installed by unit volunteers" said Col. John Munoz-Atkinson, commander of the 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "By putting these resources into a Family Readiness Center we

create a link between the support programs of the military and community volunteer organizations and demonstrate a tangible commitment to the well being of our soldiers' families".

Operation Homefront has committed to keeping a cabinet of dry goods stocked with necessities for needy families. The Veterans of Foreign Wars - Department of California - Military Assistance Program has committed to provide brand new laptops equipped with webcams for every center. TriWest Healthcare Alliance has provided \$12,500 towards the centers and has pledged to provide another \$7,500 per center (for a total of \$52,500 pledged). Many individuals have made similar pledges of future support to ensure all seven centers will be built. The National Guard Association of California is also helping raise funds to augment the state appropriated funds.

"We have a real strong showing from our members who are donating to this as they renew their annual dues" said Jim Lubey, NGAC Executive Director.

On hand to dedicate the new facility was Congresswoman Susan Davis of the 53rd Congressional District, CNG Deputy Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, CANG Commander Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Gidley and 40th Infantry Division Assistant Commander for Maneuver Brig. Gen. John Harrel. Numerous veterans, military support and community organizations were also present to educate unit members and their families on the various benefits and services available to them.

If you have questions, or would like more information about these centers, please contact Kim Munoz at kimberly.d.munoz@us.army.mil



Military OneSource (MOS)

Military OneSource is a 24/7/365 information and referral service available via toll free telephone and Internet access (see below). A personal and family readiness tool, MOS extends the existing Family Support system for Active Duty, Reserve, Army and Air National Guard (regardless of activation status) and their immediate family members at no cost to participants. Services provided are especially beneficial to those geographically separated from installation services or those who are unable to seek assistance during traditional working hours.

Phone: (800) 342-9647
<http://www.militaryonesource.com>

Department of Defense (DoD) and NACCRRRA Child Care Partnership

NACCRRRA is working with DoD to help those who serve in the military find and afford child care that suits their unique needs. Through several innovative civilian/military efforts among DoD, NACCRRRA & Child Care Resource & Referral agencies, we are building the quality and capacity of child care throughout the country.
<http://www.naccrrra.org/militaryprograms/>

California National Guard Family Readiness Handbook

This book is a "one-stop" resource guide for families and other loved ones of our soldiers and airmen. In it, you will find a wealth of information on many topics that are essential to a successful deployment.
<http://www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies/Handbook/index.htm>

California Family Assistance Network

The California National Guard established a Family Assistance Network as a resource to Guard and other military families - especially those involved in current deployments. They have developed rosters of civilian, government, and military agencies that can help families dealing with issues that have surfaced because of active duty.
<http://www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies/FAC.htm>

National Guard Family Program

Information and resources for National Guard Families. Registering will provide state exclusive content, local resources, access the document repository, and local events.
<http://www.guardfamily.org>

An Uncommon Honor: Cal Guard Salutes the CSMR for MP Training

Story and photos by Warrant Officer (CA) Rick de la Torre



A team of CSMR soldiers from the 40th Infantry Division Support Brigade stands fast during a Cal Guard presentation held Dec. 3, 2006 at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos.

JOINT FORCES TRAINING BASE, Los Alamitos, Calif. — A hard-working team of California State Military Reserve (CSMR) troops has received some special recognition and hearty thanks from a California National Guard unit.

Soldiers of the 40th Infantry Division (Mechanized) Support Brigade's Provost Marshal Office as well as other sections have individually been awarded the California National Guard Commendation Medal.

The citations were awarded due to the professionalism shown while the soldiers conducted a training program of practical classroom and field training for the 40th ID's Military Police Company.

"Give these fine soldiers a hand," said Capt. Eric Sharyer, the company commander, in requesting a moment of applause for the team during the December 3, 2006 company ceremony that featured the medal tribute. "Thank you very much. This relationship we have developed is going to continue."

CSMR Maj. Frank Naumann, the provost marshal, quickly returned the compliment during the base event held under sunny wind-swept skies: "It's been our plea-

sure to work with you and help you with your training," he told the assembled Guard soldiers, "so you can do your job better and stay alive."

The direct presentation by a Guard unit of awards to CSMR soldiers is a rare occasion, and hasn't happened in recent memory. A total of 27 CSMR soldiers were announced as recipients of the CACM, the state's third highest non-combat award, with the citation specifically noting how helpful their knowledge and experience was in a multi-day training exercise for 55 Guard MPs conducted in June. The exercise, known as the Initial Entry Force program, featured real-world training scenarios at the JFTB, including vehicle checkpoints and roadblocks and searches for weapons and explosive devices.

The IEF program was created to fulfill a state mandate to provide basic law enforcement skills to all soldiers of the California Army National Guard, to prepare them for their law enforcement support role in the event of a stateside disaster. Most of the CSMR troops on the team are either current or former peace officers who used their civilian law enforcement skills and training blending Army doctrine with real-world law enforcement

experience, to create the modular IEF program. In total, the team personnel have approximately 300 years of professional law enforcement experience.

But the Guard's recognition, in effect, is also for the several other training events that the team conducted during 2006. One of those sessions included field training at the Los Angeles Police Regional Training Facility in Downey, where Guard soldiers undertook exercises that simulated hostage retrievals

under fire (using paintball guns), domestic family disturbances and work-place violence situations.

"It's a pretty neat feeling," said Spec. Dennis Duvall, a former San Bernardino County sheriff's deputy, after the ceremony. "I'm very honored. Warrant Officer Joe Hall, a police officer in the city of Palos Verdes Estates, agreed that it was an honor to be paid tribute. "We're not in it for the money. We do it because we like it and we want to help out."



Cal Guard Capt. Eric Sharyer returns the snappy salute of CSMR Sgt. Johan Lai

Chief of the National Guard Bureau Visits Joint Task Force Vista

By Master Sgt. Michael Drake

The National Guard Bureau's highest ranking officer visited California late November to tour the California National Guard's mission on its southern border; Joint Task Force Vista.

Lieutenant General Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and his party arrived Sunday evening of Thanksgiving weekend at Naval Air Station North Island (Coronado) and was met by JTF Vista commander, Col. Kevin Ellsworth; the state adjutant general, Maj. Gen. William Wade III; and Brig Gen. Louis Antonetti, director of the joint staff - all of whom had arrived earlier in the day accompanying the adjutant general on his plane - and Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Gomez, the command sergeant major for the task force.

On Monday morning, General Blum met with members of the U.S. Border Patrol at Chula Vista sector headquarters where he received a brief on the of the operation. He said current Guard strength for OPERATION JUMP START was just below the 6,000 cap and as Border Patrol numbers increased, the number of deployed Guard personnel would decrease. He said he expected some decline in those numbers mid-year of 2007. He also said additional air assets were forthcoming and would be incorporated into the mission as soon as contractors completed work at the depot.

From Chula Vista the party drove to Whiskey Eight, adjacent to the border, where engineers have done extensive work recently including the installation of an additional "King Kong" gate to allow heavy equipment access to the all-weather between the primary and secondary fence. Task Force Steel Castle had lined up various earth moving equipment used on the mission, along with pictorial displays of their work. Task Force Phoenix (the medical squadron) briefed the general of their work on the mission and their various field units. Major Will Gentile, Task Force Aviation Commander, briefed the party on air operations in front of a OH-58 Kiowa observation helicopter. While at the site, Gen. Blum made a point of walking through the ranks, shaking hands with each soldier and airman and thanking them for their part in the Southwest Border Mission.

Inclement weather prevented the scheduled helicopter flight to El Centro Sector so the party departed by bus for the two-hour drive over the mountains. Arriving in El Centro where the sun shone brightly and the temperature was a balmy 80 degrees - considerably cooler than the typical 110-plus range common in the summer - General Blum again visited with Border Patrol officials while NGB Senior Enlisted Advisor,

Command Sergeant Major David Ray Hudson visited with troops in the muster room where he was briefed on mission operations and presented coins to outstanding performers. When General Blum came into the room he entertained questions and once again made a point to shake hands with each soldier and airman present.

Before departing for visits in other states involved in OPERATION JUMP START, Lt. Gen. Blum gave his assessment of the mission citing the team work involved - especially considering the aspects of a joint service, inter-agency mission.

"If you look around you will see Air Guard and you'll see Customs and Border Patrol, and you'll see Army National Guard, you'll see people from California and Iowa, so it's a perfect blend, of both the joint Army Air piece, and the interagency and the customs and border patrol and the intergovernmental," said Lt. Gen. Blum. "The National Guard is being used with under the command and control of the governors of the four states involved, Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas, to support civilian law enforcement, to protect our international border as well as your border here in California, and in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas."

PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. MICHAEL DRAKE



Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, shakes hands with engineers assembled at Whiskey Eight during his November 26 visit to Joint Task Force Vista. Nearly 1400 California National personnel are deployed as part of OPERATION JUMP START helping the Border Patrol secure our nation's southwest border.

In the Line of Fire

On 22 June, 2005, we responded to assist in the evacuation of another soldier in the company who had been hit by a sniper at the District Area Control (DAC) compound.

Upon arrival, Lt. McCarthy told me to block north bound traffic to the intersection we had approached. I positioned my gun truck to block the southern approach to the intersection of Route Irish and Route Sonics approximately 175 meters south of the intersection in the #2 lane of the north bound lanes.

With me in the truck were Sgt. Durand, who was manning the M240B, Spec. Kelly, Pfc. McCullough, and Spec. Archuleta, the platoon medic. We had stopped traffic and posted road cones. Traffic control went as it usually did.

me to break down our blocking position as we were getting ready to head back to FOB Flacon. I ordered my dismounts (Spec. Kelly and Pfc. McCullough) to police up the road cones.

I was standing with Spec. Archuleta on the east side of the gun truck looking east into the open field. I then felt a heavy smack and a sting in my left shoulder and was knocked back into the gun truck. I fell to the ground with my left arm tight into my side. I hit the ground and it seemed to take me a second to realize that I had been shot.

At this time, I radioed on my ICOM, "I think I've been hit." I began moving my left arm. When I realized my left arm wasn't paralyzed, I assumed a prone position

I had stopped around the front of the truck and Archuleta came around, grabbed me by the drag handle, dragging me all the way around to the other side of the vehicle. He then sat me down on the far side of the truck.

At that time, Archuleta said, "OK, let me take a look." referring to the hole that he had noticed in the collar piece of my IBA. He opened my IBA and said, "It's OK, you're bleeding, but it doesn't look too bad." I told him that the asphalt was burning my ass and that I wanted to get off the ground.

Archuleta started to treat me as the lieutenant's vehicle rolled up. He had kurlex immediately available through a non issued pouch that he wore on his thigh. He pulled it

Excerpt from Staff Sgt. Christian Carpenter's Sworn Statement

treat me enroute to the Combat Service Hospital (CSH). The working space was extremely tight due to the body armor he was wearing and the water chest between his seat and mine. He was reaching over the top and basically resting prone on top of the water chest to continue treating me.

Despite the extremely tight spaces and the pandemonium caused by



Carpenter sitting in a humvee waiting to be evacuated



Archuleta pulling security during the search for a sniper on 22 June 2005

After a while, a black hawk medical evacuation helicopter had landed within the DAC compound to the northeast of us and picked up its passenger.

Simultaneously, I was scanning the open area to the east of our position. There were several spots that looked good for a sniper to be using as a hide. I made a mental note of these areas. I had assumed the sniper to be long gone by the time we had arrived on scene, and therefore, did not take any special precautions to look for him. Sometime after the Blackhawk left, Lt. McCarthy had radioed me telling

with my M4 up and began scanning for the shooter. Spec. Archuleta immediately looked over my back and could see the area of my armor where the bullet had passed through. It looked like a grazing shot and he said, "It's OK, it looks like it just nicked you." I said OK.

After a couple of seconds of scanning, I realized that I hadn't heard the shot and this shooter was likely too far off to see. Therefore, I felt we were sitting ducks for a follow on shot. I told Archuleta to get behind the gun truck for cover. I made my way around the front of the gun truck. For some reason,

out and applied it to the wound. He began asking questions, to further investigate the wound. His demeanor was calm and collected and I could tell that he was acting as he had been trained. At that time the lieutenant's vehicle had pulled up beside ours and Archuleta told the LT that we needed to go (to the CSH). He then turned to me and said, "You're OK, we're just going to have to take you to the CSH to get stitches." I said OK.

He stood me up, helped the rest of my armor off and sat me down behind the driver. After we began to move Archuleta continued to

some outside factors, Archuleta remained steadfast in treating me. Shortly after we began moving, my vision began turning white and I felt as though I would lose consciousness. I heard Archuleta say, "Stay with me! Stay with me." He then lifted my right eyelid open and I could tell he was doing an assessment on me. My vision started to return and the air conditioning was kicking in and I began to feel a lot better.

At that time I told him that my wife was really going to be pissed. Archuleta continued his assessment. Soon after we passed through CP12 and then made it to the CSH.

Staff Sgt. Christian Carpenter and Spec. Christopher M. Archuleta deployed as members of the 1-184th Infantry Battalion to Iraq. During its tour, the battalion operated on the front lines, performing missions in some of the most dangerous areas in Baghdad. The battalion conducted over 6,800 combat patrols and captured hundreds of Insurgents. Twelve members of the 1-184th made the ultimate sacrifice and more than 100 Purple Hearts were awarded.

Aviation Transformation – 126th Medical Company (AA) Guidon Flies for the Last Time

By Cadet Chris Sandin, Sgt. T. Eric Franz

On 11 June 2006, the 126th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) flew its colors for the last time and began a new chapter of service to California and the Nation as Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion).

The 126th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) has had a long history of service to the state of California and to the federal mission of the United States. The 126th evolved into a company that earned the respect of those who have been witness to or received impeccable care from the flight crews and those who support them on the ground and in the air.

The history of the 126th Medical Company started in June of 1974 with 18 UH-1 Hueys and four flight platoons consisting of 250 people. The early state side duties of this unit were what they continue to be today. These duties consist of, but are not limited to conducting medical evacuation, providing search

and rescue, controlling wild fires, providing aid for flood and earthquake victims, and support with special events such as both the 2002 Utah Winter and the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics.

Since the unit's inception, many deployments, foreign and domestic, have taken place. These deployments include replacing an active duty MEDEVAC unit at Fort Bliss, TX for Operation Desert Storm in 1991, where the 126th gained a distinguished reputation with National Guard and Active Duty Army units nation wide. The Company also participated with the peace keeping mission in Bosnia in 1998. There they provided medical evacuation support for the civilians and Allied personnel of the region. In February of 2003, they contributed to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. While in country the unit was responsible for saving countless lives and providing medical aid to those in need. Most recently, with a portion of its unit deployed to Egypt

in Support of Operation Bright Star, the 126th was called upon to aid with the search and rescue operations in Louisiana in direct response to Hurricane Katrina. The 126th has been ready for any challenge that the Army and the State of California has to offer and remains prepared for the future of medical evacuation.

The most recent challenge facing the unit is its change of designation and restructuring. The transformation will make C Company more modular and have the unit

aligned under an Aviation Chain of Command, as opposed to a Medical Chain of Command. The structure will allow for MEDEVAC pilots to have a better operational picture prior to launching into harms way. The unit's mission has not changed and the soldiers who have earned its reputation have remained in the ranks. The future of C Co, 1-168th GSAB will without doubt create it's own distinguished history that parallels its predecessor in providing outstanding care for those in need.



PHOTO: STAFF SGT. JOSEPH PROUSE

"Swift and Deadly"

The First Squadron 18th Cavalry Regiment is undergoing transformation from a heavy divisional armored cavalry squadron to the reconnaissance surveillance, and target acquisition (RSTA) squadron for the 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Going away will be the heavy main battle tanks and the cavalry fighting vehicles. In their place will be two humvee mounted cavalry reconnaissance troops and one dismounted infantry reconnaissance troop.

Under the previous divisional cavalry structure the battalion was authorized 611 soldiers organized in a headquarters troop for command and control (now located in Azusa), and three armored cavalry troops – tank platoons, cavalry platoons, and self propelled heavy mortars. Under the new Army brigade combat team structure, the 1-18th Cavalry will have an authorized strength of 325 organized as a reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition squadron with a headquarters troop, two mounted cavalry troops and one dismounted infantry reconnaissance troop. The recon battalion will be supported by a Forward Support Company organic to the 40th Brigade Support Battalion and under the operational control

of the 1-18th Cavalry. This support company will have an authorized strength of 102 combat service and support Soldiers.

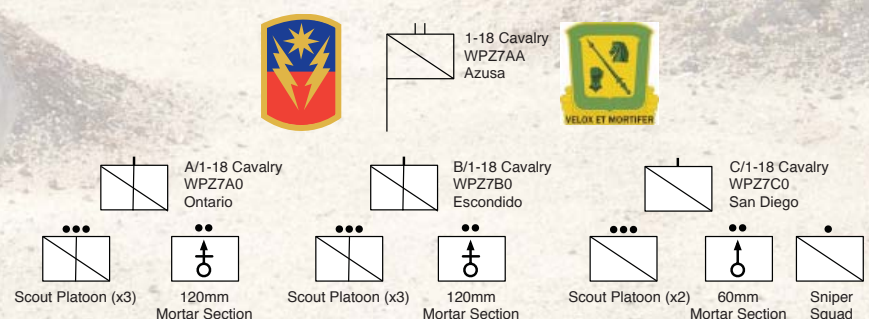
"I will miss the tanks", says Spec. Jason Lindberg of C Troop. "But I am looking forward to the new training and getting qualified as a scout. C Troop is a great unit, lots of camaraderie". Spec. Lindberg recently re-enlisted for six years.

Lt. Col. Kurt Schlichter, the squadron commander, says the big challenge for the unit is converting Soldiers to a new Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). "Our training priority is MOS qualification and NCO professional development courses, after that we have a wide range of specialty schooling available." Squadron Soldiers have recently completed Ranger school and the Cavalry Leader Course. In addition, select Soldiers are eligible for the Long Range Surveillance Leader Course, Scout Platoon Leader Course, Mortar Leader Course, Sniper Course, Pathfinder School, and the Sapper Course. "No one joins the Cavalry to have it easy", says Lt. Col. Schlichter, "they join to be challenged and be among fellow Soldiers who have risen to that challenge".

Soldiers from the 1-18 Cavalry have recently returned from serving overseas on most of the California Army National Guard's major missions: Iraq, Kosovo, and Guan-

tanamo Bay Cuba. Many Cavalry soldiers are also scheduled to deploy to Iraq with the 1-160th Infantry next March.

Story and Photos by Maj. Daniel Markert



Warrant Officers Play Santa for Local Veterans

By Chief Warrant Officer Mario F. Garcia

Members of the Gold Rush Sacramento Chapter of the US Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA) recently visited veterans at the Veterans Administration's regional hospital at Mather, CA. Over 20 current and retired Warrant Officers, along with a few NCO's and Warrant Officer Candidates participated in the event. Brigadier General Kight, Assistant Adjutant General for the California National Guard—and the newest member of the USAWOA—also attended. Chief Warrant Officer (Ret.) Russell Brewer coordinated the event with the VA Hospital for the third year in a row.

This was the third year that chapter members visited the VA hospital at Christmas to let the veterans there know they are remembered and to thank them for their service to our Country. Each resident received several Christmas gifts including fleece pants, socks, and stocking caps to help keep them warm during the cold winter months. Several patients also received knitted blankets hand-made and donated by Ms. Myrtle Dickinson. Myrtle is the 87 year old grandmother of Mrs. Susan Clements, a military Department Employee. The chapter also presented each veteran with an official coin.

The Gold Rush Chapter is one of the most active charitable organizations in the California National Guard even though it is made up of current and retired Warrant Officers from the Active, Guard, and Reserve Army forces. The chapter holds several fund raisers each year in order to raise enough money to donate toward various charitable causes including donating one thousand dollars annually to the Sergeants Major/Chaplains Fund to help soldiers during times of financial need and sending care packages to troops deployed around the world. Last year the chapter sent enough compact disk players and music CD's to provide one to each soldier-patient at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad, Iraq. As part of that event, the chapter also donated toys and clothing that were distributed to Iraqi children injured during the war and also being treated at the Balad hospital.

Other charitable causes have included supporting the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots drive and annually donating one thousand dollars in new shoes to children at the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento—an emergency shelter for abused and neglected children ranging from 1 to 17 years in age. The Gold Rush Chapter also donates funds to the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment – Joint Force Headquarters to help defray the costs of their annual family picnic.

The chapter raises funds through various prize drawings and events such as their ever-popular "Comedy Night". Usually held in early spring at a local comedy club, the event includes a wine tasting social where each attendee receives a commemorative wine glass, then laughs the night away being entertained by several local comedians and a national headliner act. Before the night concludes the chapter gives away several door prizes, including weekend getaways and autographed sports memorabilia donated by the Sacramento Kings.

The Grizzly Magazine interviewed Brigadier General Kight for this article to ask how she felt about organizations such as the USAWOA giving of their time and money to support the community.

Grizzly: Why did you decide to accompany the Warrant Officers in their visit to the VA hospital?

Kight: I spent less than one second to decide to accompany the Warrant Officers and I look forward to participating in the future years. I was extremely fortunate because I had a dual opportunity. I spent time with the Warrant Officers and I had the distinct honor to thank those hospitalized veterans for their service to our great country.

Grizzly: What did you think of your experience spending time with the vets?

Kight: It was a humbling yet satisfying experience to spend time with those warriors. I would have liked to spend more time with them and as I expressed to the Warrant Officers before we departed the hospital, that was a special day. They are significant heroes and just like I heard said by one of the Warrant Officers, "they are not forgotten".

Grizzly: The Gold Rush Chapter of the US Army Warrant Officers Association is just one of the many military-affiliated associations that serve our communities and support worthy causes. What would you say to a young soldier or airman about getting involved?

Kight: Get involved with your community if even only once a year. You will make a difference in someone's life and that small gift of giving is worth a life-time to most.

In addition to Brigadier General Kight, Major General William H. Wade II, the Adjutant General, is also an Associate Member of the USAWOA. Wade has been a big supporter and member of the Association for over six years.

For more information about the Gold Rush Chapter of the USAWOA, visit www.goldrushchapter.org or visit the national website (www.usawoa.org) to find a chapter in your area.



Brig. Gen. Kight, the Assistant Adjutant General, joined the Gold Rush Chapter of the US Army Warrant Officers Association in their visit to the Mather VA Hospital.

Warrant Officers from the Gold Rush Chapter participated in the annual JFHQ Employee's Counsel visit to the Sacramento Children's Receiving Home. The chapter has donated one thousand dollars worth of new shoes every year for the past several years. The Children's Home provides shelter and counseling to abused and neglected children.



PHOTO: CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4 PATRICK SPROUL

Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers, the government program helping former military members become public school teachers, has broken the 9,500 mark in hires according to the program’s latest status report. (see attached)

Latest data shows that 9,502 teachers have been hired through the program since 1994, with Troops to Teachers represented in more than 3,000 school districts across the country.

Troops to Teachers (www.ProudtoServeAgain.com) is administered by the Department of Defense and Department of Education and managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES). The program helps eligible military personnel begin second careers as public school teachers by providing referral assistance, placement services, and – for those electing to teach at high-need schools – financial stipends and bonuses.

Members of the National Guard and Reserves with 10 or more years of service are eligible for the program, provided they commit for an additional three years.

In addition to providing more teachers, the program is also providing the types of teachers that are in highest demand. The highlights of an August 2005 National Center for Educational Information report include:

- ★ 82 percent of teachers entering through Troops to Teachers is male, compared to 18 percent of all teachers (2005 NCEI study).
- ★ 37 percent of Troops teachers are persons of color, compared to 15 percent overall.
- ★ 46 percent of Troops teachers teach sciences (biology, geology, physics, and chemistry), versus 18 percent overall
- ★ 27 percent are teaching math, versus 7 percent overall.
- ★ 44 percent of Troops teachers are teaching special education classes, compared to 19 percent overall.

For a general overview and brief history of the program, watch the PDF slide briefing which can be found here (note that the participation numbers are not up to date):

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/TTTBrief.pdf



Accession Task Force

Accession Task Force (ATF), more commonly known as Recruiting and Retention (R&R), encompasses all of the recruiters for the California Army National Guard. Most everyone is familiar with what the recruiters duty is but the second “R” is lesser known. The retention division has a varied list of duties that you may not be aware of.

Master Sgt. Helen Nunez, (helen.nunez.cruz@us.army.mil) heads up the retention division out of the ATF offices at the former Air Force Base at Mather in Sacramento. She oversees all of the brigade and battalion Career Counselors which number about 35 Soldiers. Every Brigade and most Battalions have a full time Career Counselor to assist you in a number of ways. I will innumerate how they can assist you in future issues of the Grizzly. Listed below is the contact information for each Brigade Career Counselor.

What can retention do for you? I will briefly identify the various missions assigned to the retention division and in future articles will take each one in turn and expand upon it.

- ★ Explains the benefits that Soldiers will garner for extending in the CAARNG to include bonuses, educational benefits, career direction, gaining citizenship and lifestyle benefits such as MWR and PX/commissary privileges.
- ★ Completing all extension paperwork and sending it forward.
- ★ Operations of the Freedom Salute Campaign which recognizes and awards Soldiers returning from mobilization and their families with a cased flag, certificate and other recognition items.
- ★ Implementation of the Extension Incentive Awards which recognizes the extension of

Soldiers with a certificate of extension and other items based on length of contract.

- ★ Oversees the completion of the Citizen Soldier Surveys (formerly known as the Unit Climate Survey) and the Battle Handoff Survey for the Recruit Sustainment Program, processing the survey results and the distribution of the results to the chain of command.
- ★ Hosting Retirement and Retention seminars at various locations throughout the State.

In a nutshell, the Retention Division, is responsible for Soldier care. When a Soldier feels they have issues or concerns about their military career, the Career Counselors are the subject matter experts. If you would like to contact your Brigade Career Counselor see the list below.



224th Sustainment BDE	Sgt. First Class John Berry	john.l.berry@us.army.mil
49th MP BDE	Sgt. Jeremy Lambert	jeremy.lambert@us.army.mil
40th CAB	Staff Sgt. Joaquin Guerrero	joaquin.a.guerrero@us.army.mil
1106 AVCRAD	Staff Sgt. William Smith	william.smith2@us.army.mil
100th Troop Cmd	Sgt. First Class Bryan Palmer	bryan.palmer@us.army.mil
115th RSG	Sgt. First Class Mark Rose	mark.rose@us.army.mil
40th ID	Sgt. First Class Morris Llamas	morris.llamas@us.army.mil
40th IBCT	Sgt. First Class Ronald Woods	ronald.woods@us.army.mil
223rd IN Rgmt	Sgt. Mark Vonachen	mark.vonachen@us.army.mil
MTC Camp Roberts	Sgt. Mark Vonachen	mark.vonachen@us.army.mil

News & Benefits

Operation “We Care” Celebrates its Two Year Anniversary

The California National Guard’s Operation Ready Families Program (ORFP) understands the importance of support and accessibility for our military service members and their families. Due to the level of deployment, ORFP has established the Family Assistance Network (FAN), a group of coordinators located throughout California.

FAN Coordinators are available to answer questions as well as pass on essential information to families and their service members who are involved in any branch of the military. The FAN also hosts once a month “We Care” meetings, covering topics from tax preparation and redeployment challenges to understanding your military benefits.

For more information on meetings in your area or to find out more about the Family Assistance Network please visit our website at: www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies or call 1-800-449-9662.

Operation First Response

When wounded servicemembers are evacuated from the battlefield they often arrive for treatment with no personal items or suitable clothing.

Operation First Response Backpacks are filled with clothing, hygiene items, and comfort items that include a handmade cot size quilt. OFR Backpacks are packed and sent to combat support hospitals (CHS) in Iraq, Landstuhl Army Medical Hospital in Germany, and other locations. Operation First Response is asking for monetary donations to fund the purchase of empty packs along with the items used to fill the pack. Operation First Response also asks for donations of the individual items used in the pack including empty backpacks. Visit <http://www.operationfirstresponse.org> to learn how you can help.

Pilot Candidates

The 129th Rescue Squadron at Moffett Federal Airfield in Mountain View, California is looking for qualified* candidates for the position of Helicopter Pilot. This is a Traditional Guardsman position operating the HH-60G Pavehawk Helicopter. Selection Board dates are as follows with package deadline in parenthesis:

- ★ February 07 (January 1, 2007)
- ★ August 07 (July 1, 2007)

Exchanges Focus on Product Safety

In the past six months, four Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) electronic suppliers have issued recalls on notebook computer batteries. The AAFES Quality Assurance team defines quality in terms of “fitness for use;” i.e., if an item is not fit for intended use, then it is not a quality item. Once merchandise in AAFES’ stock assortment is identified as unsafe, the Quality Assurance team immediately issues a recall or alert in conjunction with federal agencies. All product recalls and alerts relevant to AAFES are posted and archived online at http://www.aafes.com/pa/news/QA_Recalls.htm.

Skilled Nursing Facility and Long-Term Care

At some point in your life, you or a family member may need skilled nursing care, long-term care or both. For skilled nursing care and long-term care issues, contact your TRICARE Service Center or your regional contractor. One option is the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP). All active duty and National Guard members activated for more than 30 days, retired uniformed servicemembers and members of the Selected Reserve are eligible to apply for FLTCIP. For more information, visit <http://www.opm.gov/insure/ltc/index.htm> or call 1-800-582-3337.

DoD Releases Report on Infectious Diseases

“Gulf War and Health: Volume 5, Infectious Diseases,” is the fifth report in a series and focuses on infectious diseases by identifying nine diseases and 34 different long-term health effects that might appear weeks to years after initial infection. IA 1998 Congressional mandate required the VA to contract with the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine to use a specific procedure to determine the illnesses that warrant a presumption of connection to service in the 1991 Gulf War. The report can be read online at the National Academies Press website at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/11765.html>.

TRICARE to Extend for Servicemembers

In the Fiscal Year 2007 National Defense Authorization Act, a savings provision was included for those demobilized Guard and Reserve members whose Tier I TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) expired between Oct. 16, 2006 and Sept. 30, 2007. Congress is allowing these Reservists to continue at a Tier I rate with a 28 percent premium co-pay as all SelRes will be eligible for the 28 percent premium co-pay on Oct. 1, 2007. Approximately 2,000 Reservists and their families will be affected.

For those who would have lost their TRS coverage after Jan. 1, they will be automatically extended. These Reserve Component (RC) members will have to opt out if they wish to discontinue TRS.

For those whose eligibility ends Dec. 31 or earlier, a letter will be sent by DoD Health Affairs/TRICARE Management Activity. Included will be a re-enrollment form which will be sent directly to the TRICARE health contractor with a payment for the next month. These Reservists will have an option to start a new, or to continue from the time of their disenrollment date, so that there will be no gaps in health coverage. About 200 RC will be affected.

RC members who are federally employed and who have the Federal Employee Health Benefits plan are not eligible, as they were excluded from the revised TRS program which started Oct. 1, 2006 by Congress.

DoD to Resume Anthrax Vaccinations

The Department of Defense announced a resumption of the mandatory Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program (AVIP) for military personnel, emergency-essential DoD civilians and contractors, based on defined geographic areas or roles. For the most part, mandatory vaccinations are limited to military units designated for homeland bioterrorism defense and to U.S. forces assigned to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility and Korea. Instructions for resuming the mandatory vaccination program will be issued within 30 to 60 days.



Did you know?

Soldiers and Airman are required to wear headgear while outdoors in uniform and that includes when you are walking to/from your POV in a parking lot or taking a smoke break? Exceptions, if any, are outlined in AR 670-1 and AFI36-2903. It’s your duty to do what is right and not just what is convenient.



Happy New Year!

Grizzly Newsletter

is published by the Directorate of Communications

California National Guard 9800 Goethe Road Sacramento CA 95827.

Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army, the Department of the Air Force or the California State Military Department.

Grizzly Newsletter is an official publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101.

Grizzly Newsletter welcomes manuscripts photographs and feedback.

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Grizzly Newsletter

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